

In the Claims:

All of the currently pending claims are listed below including any amendments proposed herein. Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (currently amended) In a system for matching carrier capacities with shipper loads via a wide area network, a method for enabling a carrier to generate a bid for a shipper load, comprising:

selecting a plurality of units of capacity, each unit of capacity corresponding to specific carrier equipment having an associated equipment identifier;

assigning a group identifier to the plurality of units of capacity thereby relating the associated equipment identifiers; and

generating a bid for the shipper load using the group identifier.

2. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the units of capacity correspond to equipment identifiers are defined by a carrier representative.

3. (original) The method of claim 2 wherein the equipment identifiers correspond to at least one of trucking capacity, aircraft capacity, shipping capacity, and rail capacity.

4. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein generating a bid comprises generating a plurality of bid entries, each of the bid entries corresponding to one of the units of capacity.

5. (currently amended) A computer program product comprising a computer readable medium having computer program instructions embedded therein for performing a

method for enabling a carrier to generate a bid for a shipper load in a system for matching carrier capacities with shipper loads via a wide area network, the method comprising:

selecting a plurality of units of capacity, each unit of capacity corresponding to specific carrier equipment having an associated equipment identifier;

assigning a group identifier to the plurality of units of capacity thereby relating the associated equipment identifiers; and

generating a bid for the shipper load using the group identifier.

6. (currently amended) In a system for matching carrier capacities with shipper loads via a wide area network, a method for bidding on a plurality of shipper loads, comprising enabling a carrier to generate a plurality of bids corresponding to the plurality of shipper loads at the same time, each of the plurality of bids corresponding to a same unit of capacity which corresponds to specific carrier equipment having an associated equipment identifier.

7. (currently amended) The method of claim 6 wherein the ~~same unit of capacity corresponds to an equipment identifier~~ is defined by a carrier representative.

8. (original) The method of claim 7 wherein the equipment identifier corresponds to at least one of trucking capacity, aircraft capacity, shipping capacity, and rail capacity.

9. (original) The method of claim 6 further comprising, in response to acceptance by a shipper representative of one of the plurality of bids, making all others of the plurality of bids unavailable.

10. (original) The method of claim 6 wherein the same unit of capacity comprises a group comprising a plurality of units of capacity.

11. (currently amended) A computer program product comprising a computer readable medium having computer program instructions embedded therein for performing a method for bidding on a plurality of shipper loads in a system for matching carrier capacities with shipper loads via a wide area network, the method comprising enabling a carrier to generate a plurality of bids corresponding to the plurality of shipper loads at the same time, each of the plurality of bids corresponding to a same unit of capacity which corresponds to specific carrier equipment having an associated equipment identifier.

12. (currently amended) In a system for matching carrier capacities with shipper loads via a wide area network, a method for bidding on a plurality of shipper loads, comprising: generating a plurality of bids corresponding to the plurality of shipper loads, each of the plurality of bids corresponding to a same unit of capacity which corresponds to specific carrier equipment associated with a single carrier; and where one of the plurality of bids is accepted, making all others of the plurality of bids unavailable, and wherein the plurality of bids correspond to a single carrier.

13. (currently amended) The method of claim 12 wherein the same unit of capacity corresponds to an equipment identifier is defined by a carrier representative.

14. (original) The method of claim 13 wherein the equipment identifier corresponds to one of trucking capacity, aircraft capacity, shipping capacity, and rail capacity.

15. (original) The method of claim 12 wherein the same unit of capacity comprises a group comprising a plurality of units of capacity.

16. (currently amended) A computer program product comprising a computer readable medium having computer program instructions embedded therein for performing a method for bidding on a plurality of shipper loads in a system for matching carrier capacities with shipper loads via a wide area network, the method comprising:

generating a plurality of bids corresponding to the plurality of shipper loads, each of the plurality of bids corresponding to a same unit of capacity which corresponds to specific carrier equipment associated with a single carrier; and

where one of the plurality of bids is accepted, making all others of the plurality of bids unavailable, and

~~wherein the plurality of bids correspond to a single carrier.~~

17. (currently amended) In a system for matching carrier capacities with shipper loads via a wide area network, a method for enabling a carrier to generate a bid for a shipper load, comprising:

generating the bid for the shipper load designating a currently unavailable unit of capacity which corresponds to specific carrier equipment having an associated equipment identifier, the bid being identified as a future bid; and

when the currently unavailable unit of capacity becomes available, updating the bid to a current bid.

18. (currently amended) The method of claim 17 wherein the ~~currently unavailable unit of capacity corresponds to an equipment identifier is~~ defined by a carrier representative.

19. (original) The method of claim 18 wherein the equipment identifier corresponds to one of trucking capacity, aircraft capacity, shipping capacity, and rail capacity.

20. (original) The method of claim 17 wherein the currently unavailable unit of capacity comprises a group comprising a plurality of units of capacity.

21. (original) The method of claim 17 further comprising:
generating additional bids for other shipper loads designating the currently unavailable unit of capacity, the additional bids being identified as additional future bids; and
when the currently unavailable unit of capacity becomes available, updating the additional bids to a additional current bids.

22. (currently amended) A computer program product comprising a computer readable medium having computer program instructions embedded therein for performing a method for enabling a carrier to generate a bid for a shipper load in a system for matching carrier capacities with shipper loads via a wide area network, the method comprising:

generating the bid for the shipper load designating a currently unavailable unit of capacity which corresponds to specific carrier equipment having an associated equipment identifier, the bid being identified as a future bid; and

when the currently unavailable unit of capacity becomes available, updating the bid to a current bid.

40. (currently amended) In a system for matching carrier capacities with shipper loads via a wide area network, a method for presenting information regarding a bid entered against a particular shipper load, the bid corresponding to a particular carrier capacity, the method comprising communicating a number of shipper loads against which the particular carrier capacity which corresponds to specific carrier equipment is currently bid.

41. (currently amended) The method of claim 40 wherein the ~~particular unit of capacity corresponds to an equipment identifier~~ is defined by the carrier representative.

42. (original) The method of claim 41 wherein the equipment identifier corresponds to one of trucking capacity, aircraft capacity, shipping capacity, and rail capacity.

43. (original) The method of claim 40 wherein the particular unit of capacity comprises a group comprising a plurality of units of capacity.

44. (original) The method of claim 40 wherein the information includes a hyperlink, the method further comprising presenting a bid history relating to the particular shipper load in response to selection of the hyperlink.

45. (currently amended) A computer program product comprising a computer readable medium having computer program instructions embedded therein for performing a method for presenting information regarding a bid entered against a particular shipper load in a system for matching carrier capacities with shipper loads via a wide area network, the bid corresponding to a particular carrier capacity, the method comprising communicating a number

of shipper loads against which the particular carrier capacity which corresponds to specific carrier equipment is currently bid.